

DOH STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 5, 2005

Subject: DQS/DAL Distribution

Dear Administrator:

This letter conveys a change in the method of distribution of Dear Administrator Letters. Effective immediately, these letters will be distributed via the Health Provider Network (HPN). The letters will no longer be sent directly to you by e-mail. You are strongly encouraged to routinely monitor the HPN for these and other important communications from the Department of Health.

The Department will issue two DAL's in the very near future. One will address the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Program by nursing homes. This letter includes guidance on determining the surge capability and capacity of your facility and on the development of your evacuation plan.

The second letter will address nursing home requirements to report incidents that may involve abuse, neglect or mistreatment. This letter clarifies questions raised by providers and provides guidance that builds on previous Department notifications.

Please monitor the Health Provider Network daily to access these and other communications. The HPN is a valuable source of information and provides real time communications to providers. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and active participation in the HPN.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Servis, Director
Division of Quality and Surveillance
for Nursing Homes and ICFs/MR